



Urban District of Whittlesey

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1963.

OFFICERS OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

D.C. Logan, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

D.A. Bamford, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

OFFICES OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
6, Delph Street,
Whittlesey.

Telephone No.

Whittlesey 2312-3

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	23, 362
Number of Inhabited Houses	3, 106
Rateable Value (at 31.12.63.)	£313, 058
Product of 1d rate (at 31.3.63.)	£475. 10s. 4d.
Product of 1d rate (at 31.3.64.)	£1284. 14s. 0d.
Population (Reistrar General's Figures)	9,540

TO:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I wish to present my Annual Report on the health of the population of Whittlesey for the year 1963.

Once again I wish to place on record my appreciation of the work carried out by my colleagues in the Health Department, Mr. Bamford and Mrs. Tyers. They have been most assiduous in carrying out their duties and have been very understanding and helpful in dealing with the general public.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient servant,

D. C. LOGAN.

Medical Officer of Health

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	80	68	148
Illegitimate	5	7	12
Total:	<u>85</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>160</u>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population

Whittlesey Urban District	-	16.77
Whittlesey Urban District adjusted	-	16.94
England and Wales	-	18.2

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births 7.5

STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	4	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total :	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths

Whittlesey Urban District	-	36.15
England and Wales	-	17.3

The Stillbirth Rate for Whittlesey is 36.15 compared with England and Wales as a whole 17.3 and is disappointingly high. Adequate ante natal and intra partum care was given in each case and it is difficult to see how the mortality could have been reduced.

TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	82	72	154
Illegitimate	5	7	12
Total:	<u>87</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>166</u>

INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under one year)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
Total:	2	3	5

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births

Whittlesey Urban District	-	31.25
England and Wales	-	20.9

The Infant Mortality rate is much higher than the rate for England and Wales as a whole. Five deaths occurred in all. Two had severe congenital abnormalities incompatible with survival for any length of time. One child born prematurely died of pneumonia within 24 hours. The remaining deaths were caused by infections which did not respond to antibiotic treatment.

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births 33.78

Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births 0

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)

Whittlesey Urban District	-	12.5
England and Wales	-	14.2

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) 12.5

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) 48.19


MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion)

Number of Deaths

Whittlesey Urban District	0
England and Wales	244

Maternity Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths

Whittlesey Urban District	0.0
England and Wales	0.28



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DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)

<u>Male</u>	56	<u>Female</u>	54	Total	110
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Death Rate - per 1,000 estimated population

Whittlesey Urban District	-	11.53
Whittlesey Urban District adjusted	-	13.26
England and Wales	-	12.2

Causes of Death in the Whittlesey Urban District, as supplied
by the Registrar General for 1963 :-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	2
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
Diabetes	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	9
Coronary disease, angina	9	13
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
Other heart disease	8	5
Other circulatory diseases	3	1
Influenza	-	1
Pneumonia	6	8
Bronchitis	5	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	3
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-
All other accidents	2	1
Suicide	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	1
Total:	<u>56</u>	<u>54</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The main feature here was the epidemic of measles which was only of moderate severity. No serious complications were encountered.

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis is eagerly sought by the majority of parents for their children and proceeded smoothly throughout the year.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during 1963 :-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles (excluding rubella)	128	102	230
Scarlet Fever	21	11	32
Whooping Cough	-	2	2
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, other	1	1	2
Dysentery	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total :	152	116	268
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TO:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my eighth
Annual Report on the work carried out in the year
1963.

The largest single item of work was the
condemnation of 59 dwellings which was made possible
by the building of the New Road Housing Estate.
This resulted in the clearing of many unfit houses
which have been waiting some time to be cleared.

I am glad to take this opportunity to
record my appreciation of the support received from
the Public Health Committee and the Medical Officer
of Health, and the help given by the Clerk of the
Council and the Surveyor, and to thank Mrs Tyers for
her good work which has greatly assisted in the
smooth running of the department.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. A. BAMFORD.

Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Water is purchased in bulk from Peterborough Corporation. Storage and distribution in the Urban District are under the control of Mr. J.M.Harris, the Surveyor & Water Engineer.

Frequent orthotolodine tests were made of the water from domestic taps and a satisfactory amount of free chlorine was found. The water is not plumbo-solvent. Peterborough Corporation test the water regularly and no treatment other than chlorination is carried out.

The total consumption of water for the year, domestic and trade, was 133, 200, 000 gallons.

The Council are progressing with preparations to lay a new trunk main from Peterborough and to increase the storage capacity at the reservoir.

CARAVANS

There are 15 licences issued under the Caravan Act for single sites and one multiple site. These sites have been satisfactory and are of a good standard.

The County Planning Authority are considering action to close two unsatisfactory multiple sites which have deemed planning permission. The Council re-housed several families from these sites because of the poor conditions of some of the vans and the gross overcrowding in the vans. Action was taken under the Housing Acts to demolish the unsatisfactory vans, but there is nothing to prevent others coming on to the sites, as long as the number of vans permitted is not exceeded.

The occupants of the vans on another unsatisfactory site which was purchased by the Council in 1962 were re-housed in temporary housing accommodation and the site was cleared.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Five pumping stations enable most of the town and the villages of Coates and Eastrea to have the benefit of a sewer.

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION

Dwellings outside the sewered areas are served by septic tanks, pail closets or vaults. Emptying of these appliances is carried out by a Contractor who is engaged by the Council.

The Contract in 1963 covered 192 pails which were emptied three times in every fortnight. Septic tanks and vaults are emptied free on request once in any period of six months.

Flooding from the septic tanks in parts of Snoots Road occurred from time to time, although emptying of these tanks is carried out on notification as often as may be necessary. The Council's Consulting Engineers are preparing details for the provision of road, sewers, etc., under the Private Street Works Act.

The number of properties served by insanitary vaults has been reduced and it should not be long before the remainder are done away with. The properties served by pails are similarly being reduced.

Complaints of overdue emptyings were again received, and in many cases were found to be justified. As there is a difficulty in finding labour for this type of work, to effect any improvement will be expensive.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The refuse is collected by direct labour and two vehicles are used. The town area is collected weekly by a Shelvoke & Drewry 16/18 cu.yd. vehicle with compressor which is driven by the foreman and has four loaders. The outside areas are collected by a Shelvoke & Drewry 16/18 cu.yd. vehicle which has a driver and one loader. Built up areas are collected weekly and more isolated dwellings have a three weekly collection.

Routine servicing and washing of the vehicles is done by the drivers. Any repairs are carried out by local garages.

Each year more new houses are completed, there is less time for cleaning and maintaining the vehicles and no leeway to allow catching up after holidays or bad weather.

It is with great pleasure that it can be reported only a few complaints were made about the service given. This is due to the foreman and collectors who go about their work in a pleasant and cheerful manner.

Attention must be drawn to the fact that with only one exception the workmen are approaching retiring age. This precludes to a large extent the consideration of a bonus scheme which involves speed and possibly longer hours. Without a bonus scheme and/or improved methods it will be difficult to attract replacements of a suitable calibre. A Government Working Party on Refuse Collection is collecting information and will be some time before preparing a report. The main points being put before the Working Party, with support from the various Local Authority Associations, are the need for an improvement in hygienic standards in the receptacles, method of collection and vehicles, frequent and regular emptyings, accessibility of receptacles, amenities for the employees, and incentives and bonus schemes framed after work study and consultation.

Each year the workmen are provided with two pairs of overalls and gloves. In March a block of clothes airing cabinets was constructed in the vehicle garage. There is a cabinet for each man and it is heated by low wattage tubular heater. These cabinets have been much appreciated.

As with any improvement which has to be made from time to time to keep pace with higher standards the cost of refuse collection will increase. Efforts must be made to make the general public appreciate that these higher standards are necessary and that the employees deserve, and are entitled to, better working conditions.

Altogether 147,193 refuse bin collections were made in the year, together with trade refuse collected weekly from 33 premises, this resulted in 972 journeys to the refuse tip.

No. of bins collected during year	147,193
Town round weekly average	1,824
Outside area weekly round	1,005

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Refuse is tipped on a site in New Road quite close to the town, but not close to many dwellings. Because of the amount being tipped mechanical handling is not financially justified, nor is salvage worthwhile except for some scrap metal which comes to the surface. The previous remarks as to the necessity of an improvement in refuse collection apply equally to refuse disposal.

With the building of a new housing estate close to the tip plenty of surplus soil was available for cover. It is hoped to level and seed about 2 acres of finished tip to improve the appearance of the site and facilitate maintenance.

Being a potential source of rat infestation close attention is paid to regular poison baiting and a good measure of control was achieved.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are now no common lodging houses in the district.

MEASUREMENT OF AIR POLLUTION

The Council are one of the authorities taking part in the National Survey of Air Pollution carried out under the Warren Spring Laboratory of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

An air sampler is sited at the Sir Harry Smith School from which daily readings are taken of concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide. From this information the amounts are calculated and expressed as microgrammes per cubic metre of air sampled. The results, together with weather data, are sent to Warren Spring Laboratory.

The table below shows monthly average readings and the reading for the highest day's pollution in each month. The Smoke/SO₂ Ratio gives an indication of the source of pollution, industrial chimneys show a lower ratio than domestic chimneys.

The summer average for smoke (April to September) of 28 ug/m³ increases to 96 ug/m³ for the winter average the sulphur dioxide is only increased from 59ug/m³ to 101 ug/m³. The extra pollution consists largely of smoke which comes from domestic chimneys.

Month	Average Smoke	Highest Day	Average SO ₂	Highest Day	Smoke/SO ₂ Ratio
January	140	440	131	483	1.08
February	146	312	133	216	1.09
March	50	164	66	134	0.76
April	41	116	56	291	0.73
May	31	65	86	261	0.36
June	10	26	41	144	0.25
July	14	30	61	159	0.23
September	44	80	52	118	0.84
October	51	93	117	504	0.43
November	69	147	90	199	0.77
December	108	183	70	240	1.5

INSPECTIONS

The following table summarises the inspections made in 1963 :-

	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Informal Notice</u>	<u>Statutory Notice</u>
Cesspool, pail and vault work	47	4	-
Drainage	19	5	-
Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses	64	6	-
Slaughterhouses and Butcher's Shops	185	3	-
Food Shops	67	7	-
Restaurants	19	-	-
Verminous and Filthy Premises	-	-	-
Housing	213	8	-
Nuisances	36	6	-
Rats and Mice	48	2	-
Caravan Sites	41	1	-
Refuse Collection and Disposal	60	-	-

Of the 42 informal notices served 38 were complied with. 3 statutory notices served during the previous year were complied with.

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION

No infestations of vermin were reported or found.

Several investigations were made of fly infestations which were very prevalent during the summer.

HOUSING

Number of houses erected during 1963 :-

By Local Authority 115 Houses and Bungalows

By Private Enterprise 98 Houses and Bungalows

27 applications were made for Improvement Grants, all of which were approved and received grants.

Notices of Time and Place to consider the condition of fifty-six dwellings were served in the year and the following action taken :-

Demolition Orders	48
Closing Orders	10
Owner's Undertaking to Demolish	1

13 dwellings were demolished and 33 families were re-housed from unfit houses.

With the completion of 115 dwellings on the New Road housing site it was possible to carry out some re-housing from unfit dwellings. The lack of accommodation for elderly people has prevented more dwellings being dealt with but it was agreed to construct a flatlets scheme in Gracious Street for 19 elderly single persons and this will help the programme.

In the town area there are few rows of terrace houses ripe for condemnation, good and unfit houses of widely varying ages are interspersed with one another. To clear sites for re-development would involve displacement and hardship to families who are suitable housed and high compensation would be incurred.

The improvement in the Coates area was maintained, four houses were completed in South Green and a further six houses and twelve bungalows reached an advanced stage of planning. When this last development is completed it will be possible to clear some long standing unfit houses.

The situation at Pondersbridge became easier when the tenants of two unfit dwellings agreed to take houses in the town area. Two unfit dwellings remain to be dealt with, one occupied by a single elderly woman is in a bad state and will soon require action.

RENT ACT, 1957

There were no applications under the above Act during 1963.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Inspections made (under the Factories Act) for 1963

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	9	-	-
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced.	51	38	1	-
Other premises	7	5	-	-
TOTAL :	62	52	1	-

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Number of Cases in which Defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
		Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Closet Unsuitable or Defective	-	2	-	2	-
TOTAL :	-	2	-	2	-

OUTWORK SECTIONS 110 & 111

There are no outworkers in the district.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

ICE-CREAM

There are 39 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream; all the ice-cream being pre-packed. The only loose ice-cream sold in the area is sold from vehicles.

There is no ice-cream manufactured in the area.

CONDEMNED FOOD

8 certificates were issued covering 148 items of foodstuffs which were voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers.

It was not found necessary to seize any diseased or unsound food.

Condemned food is disposed of by burying in the Council's Refuse Tip.

FOOD PREPARATION

Premises registered for the making up of food	11
Fish Friers	3
Bakehouses	2
Cafes	3
Other food shops	40
Public Houses	32

The standard of food premises and food handling, which has improved over the past few years, can still further be improved. The public can help a great deal by reporting bad practices to the management or to the Health Department.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is one privately owned licensed slaughterhouse in the area, it was constructed in 1962, is well designed and maintained, and is capable of handling a much larger throughput than is being dealt with at present.

KNACKER'S YARD

There is one licensed knacker's yard which is satisfactory.

No live animals are brought on to the premises.

MEAT INSPECTION

Ante-mortem inspection is made whenever possible. All carcasses are inspected except during the period when annual leave is taken outside the district. On these occasions there was a reciprocal arrangement with the Public Health Inspector of the Thorney Rural District Council to inspect if the butcher finds any disease or suspected unfitness.

From the 1st October, 1963 the Meat Inspection Regulations came into force making one hundred per cent inspection compulsory. The Council made arrangements with the adjoining authority, Old Fletton Urban District Council, for their meat inspector to stand in during holidays.

The Council elected to charge for inspection on the following scale :-

(a)	horse, bovine animal	2/6d.
(b)	Calf or pig	9d.
(c)	sheep, lamb or goat	6d.

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle (exclud- ing Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
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Number killed	62	-	-	117	362	-
Number inspected	59	-	-	114	345	-

All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	-	-	1	13	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	11.9	-	-	0.87	3.77	-

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	6	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.74	-

Cysticercosis

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-

MEAT CONDEMNED

Bovines

1 whole carcase cystercerci	650 lbs.
3 livers distoma	20 lbs.
1 head and tongue with bruising	28 lbs.
3 livers with abscesses	25 lbs.

Pigs

6 heads and tongues tuberculosis	50 lbs.
5 livers cirrhosis	15 lbs.
2 livers hepatitis	7 lbs.
3 heart and lungs inflammation	7 lbs.
3 kidneys nephritis	2 lbs.

Sheep

1 liver distoma	1 lb.
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